

## SAYS U. S. IS PACING GRAVE PROBLEMS

Dr. E. E. Pratt Discusses Development and Maintenance of Foreign Trade.

## URGES THAT TRAINED MEN BE PLACED IN SERVICE

Bureau Chief Asserts That War in Europe Causes Decided Change in Commercial Situation.

Far-sighted commercial preparedness is the only thing which will save the country that which it has gained as a result of the European conflict, according to the annual report of Dr. E. E. Pratt, chief of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce of the Department of Commerce, made public today. Two grave problems, he said, face development and maintenance of foreign trade. The first is declared to be that of finance and the second that of training men for the work.

"The financing of our foreign trade," the report says, "is in a very bad way. The larger part of the financing of the world's trade, has hitherto been done through London. During the last hundred years London has been the world's financial market. She has held her position not because of prestige merely, but because of the fact that she has been able to supply the world with the means of financing its commerce."

"The United States never has taken any large part in financing foreign trade because of the comparatively small part of that business carried on here and because also of the unfamiliarity of many of the methods of international finance. Nor has the United States taken any large part in supplying the world with the means of financing its commerce. On account of more profitable investments at home we have chosen to invest here rather than abroad. This also has been true because of our position as a debtor nation, but probably also to a considerable degree because of the lack of organization attitude on the part of our financiers."

## War Changes Situation.

"On account of the war this situation is rapidly changing. The volume of foreign business done through New York is continuously increasing and New York banks are rapidly providing facilities for Americans who wish to export. Dollar advances have been unusually unheard of prior to this year, is assuming constantly enlarging importance in the financial world and is rapidly becoming popular as a means of meeting international obligations."

"Two provisions in the federal reserve act, the report says, have been of material assistance to the foreign trade. One is the introduction of the use of acceptance and the other is the grant to national banks to establish foreign branches."

"In thus establishing branch banks in foreign countries," the report continues, "we are following the lead of England, Germany and other European countries, which have used their banks as trade outposts. European exporters have been able, because they had their own branch institutions on the ground, to extend credit to their customers when such credits were desired. Our exporters have been hampered by the lack of these facilities. More important than this, documents containing often the most confidential part of our merchants and manufacturers have been open to the scrutiny of our competitors."

## Means of Securing Big Prizes.

"We can never hope to realize the really big prizes in foreign trade until we are prepared to take the prize to foreign nations and to foreign enterprises. The big prizes in foreign trade are public and private developments of large proportions, the building of railroads, construction of public works, plants, improvement of harbors and docks and digging of canals. New countries are poor. They look to older and richer countries to supply them with the capital to make their improvements and to develop their resources. The country that furnishes the capital usually sells the materials and does the work. The country that wants the business must finance the purchases. The same thing is true, but less directly, in the case of government loans. But there is no doubt that the loans of one nation to another form the strongest kind of economic bond between two. It is commonly said that trade follows the flag. It is much more truly said that trade follows the investment or the loan."

## CONSTRUCTORS DISCUSS MANY TECHNICAL PAPERS

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Senator Lewis commended the intent and purposes of the society and spoke of the construction of a certain post office in his home state that was supervised by a member of the association and proved to be one of the really wonderful buildings of Illinois.

A motion picture exhibit, "The Model Post Office," closed the afternoon session. Last night members of the society were guests of the Association of Government Contractors at an informal oyster roast at the Washington Elks Club.

Mr. Redfield's Speaking Program.

Secretary Redfield will leave the city tonight for New York, where he is scheduled to speak tomorrow night before the Industrial Group Society for Ethical Culture. The following day he will be in Philadelphia, where he will speak before the Textile Club of Low-

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## LITTLE STORIES FOR BEDTIME

BY THORNTON W. BURGESS.

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Granny and Reddy Fox Go Hunting.

Jolly, round, bright Mr. Sun had just got well started on his daily climb up in the blue, blue sky that morning when he spied two figures trotting across the snow-covered Green Meadow, one behind the other. They were trotting along quite as if they had made up their minds just where they were going. They had, you see, they were Reddy and Granny Fox, and they were bound for the Big River at the place where the water ran too swift to freeze. You see, the day before Reddy had discovered Quacker the Wild Duck swimming about there, and now they were on their way to try to catch him.

## Developing the Markets.

Of suggestions that combinations be permitted in developing foreign markets, Dr. Pratt says:

"It would seem a critical moment in the development of our foreign trade to extend this privilege by definite enactment or interpretation to manufacturers desiring to combine with manufacturers for the development of foreign markets."

Free ports modeled after those of Hamburg and Copenhagen are recommended in the report, which says advantages of free ports could be obtained by further extending the community bonded warehousing system, the practice of manufacturing in bond and drawback regulations. Changes required could be made in the report adds, by Treasury order.

New work undertaken by the bureau and reorganization plan for some important development in the bureau's work, the report adds, is the individual instances of business brought to American houses through efforts of the bureau are related briefly.

## CALLS CONFERENCE ON PROPOSED MOTOR TAX

Board of Trade Transportation Chairman to Entertain His Committee.

The proposition of the District Commissioners to have the law affecting automobiles in the annual license fee is to receive the serious attention of the committee on transportation of the Washington Board of Trade.

In a letter which has been sent to all the members of that committee by its chairman, Charles F. Wood, mention is made of the committee's plan.

Wood has invited his fellow committee-men to be his guests at a luncheon at the Commercial Club at 12:30 o'clock Friday afternoon.

## Needs Careful Consideration.

With reference to the recommendation of the Commissioners in their annual report that all present licenses expire December 31, 1916, and that thereafter there shall be charged annually for each and every motor vehicle such sum as may be fixed by the Commissioners, the committee has been required to pay yearly the amount so fixed, or suffer such penalties and fines as may also be fixed by the Commissioners.

"The plan proposed is one that is being widely adopted, except that in our case it raises again the old question of taxation without representation. There may be some cogent reasons why what is being done in other places, but probably there are also equally valid reasons why there should be no change in the present arrangement. In any event, the matter is one affecting many thousands of our citizens, and should be given the fullest consideration and discussion by your committee to the end that a timely report may be made to the House of Representatives, for such action as may be deemed proper."

## Members of Committee.

The membership of the committee on transportation is as follows: Charles F. Wood, chairman; John T. Barford, W. L. Beale, Colley W. Bell, W. Worthington Bowie, Alexander Britton, C. E. Brown, Harman L. Colton, Charles Conradi, Charles A. Cottrell, E. C. Graham, William E. Hunt, Charles J. Hays, J. C. McCarthy, Hanger, S. V. Hayden, S. B. Hege, Thomas M. Henry, Marvin Herndon, C. Phillips Hill, Robert Scott Hume, Stephen E. Kramer, John C. McLaughlin, F. L. Marshall, J. William H. Parsons, Perry P. Patrick, Fred D. Paxton, George E. Potter, William S. Richardson, George C. Shinn, J. Shulman, Thomas W. Smith, O. G. Staples, Joseph P. Stephenson, George Langdon Whitford and O. B. Zantlinger.

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## CIVIL PROCEEDINGS MAY FOLLOW COURT RULING

Validity of Certain Liquor Licenses May Be Tested in Further Action.

Institution in the District Supreme Court of civil proceedings to test the validity of certain liquor licenses granted by the excise board may follow the decision of the Court of Appeals in the Metropolitan Club case to the effect that the District cannot impound a license issued by the excise board after it has received the license fee.

While there has not been a conference between the corporation counsel's office of the District and the Anti-Saloon League to determine what further steps, if any, are to be taken, the institution of civil proceedings is a much-talked-of probability.

It is pointed out that one course which is open would be to file a petition for a writ of certiorari so that the court may call for the records of the excise board and determine whether or not certain licenses were granted illegally.

The Metropolitan Club case was selected as a test case, the corporation counsel's office has made plans for prosecution in Police Court of a number of liquor dealers on the ground that they are operating under such licenses.

When the Police Court decided in favor of the Metropolitan Club, the corporation counsel's office was abandoned, pending decision of the Court of Appeals.

The excise board has received two applications for transfer of liquor licenses. F. J. Stanton has asked that his license at 2010 Wisconsin street be issued to M. J. Harney, while Annie E. Hohnman has requested permission to transfer her license at 1023 1/2 street northwest, to George Nesline.

## WOULD LET U. S. OFFICERS JUDGE BARALONG CASE

LONDON, January 5.—A British official statement just issued says:

"Sir Edward Grey, secretary for foreign affairs, has answered the request of the American ambassador regarding the destruction of the coast of Ireland of a German submarine and crew by British auxiliary Baralong, by referring to various German outrages. Sir Edward Grey offers to submit such outrages, including the Baralong case, to an impartial tribunal composed, say, of officers of the United States Navy."

## MRS. HARTIGAN DIES.

Was Widow of Former Washington Detective Sergeant.

Mrs. Catherine Hartigan, widow of Thomas Hartigan, for many years a detective sergeant connected with the central office of the police department, died at her residence, 1007 North Capitol street, yesterday morning. She was about fifty years of age and had been ill for about eight weeks. Her demise was due to throat trouble.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow morning at 9:30 o'clock at St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church. The interment will be in Mount Olivet cemetery.

For many years Mrs. Hartigan was president of the St. John's Society of St. Aloysius parish, having organized the society.

A daughter and two sons, Miss Minnie Hartigan and John and Harry Hartigan, survive their mother.

## REPAIRS TO DREDGER.

Being Made at Wharf at Foot of 9th Street.

Webber & Thomas have one of the large sand and gravel digging machines belonging to the Columbia Granite and Dredging Company at the wharf foot of 9th street northwest, to which they have moved to make repairs. The digger is being made ready to return to service, taking sand and gravel from the beds in the river for the market here. It is stated that most of the digging machines now employed in taking sand and gravel from the beds in the river for this market will be kept at work throughout the winter, unless heavy ice comes and forces the discontinuation of the work.

The fitting of the Wimsatt schooner, Charles L. Rohde with a new bowsprit, has been completed at Norfolk and the vessel is now on her way to this city with a load of lumber.

Newsprint by running into a tree on the bank as she was being brought through the canal from Elizabeth City, N. C.

## \$540,679 Spent for Building.

Building operations in the District last month involved a total expenditure of \$540,679. The highest activity was in the northeast section, where permits for a total expenditure of \$132,495 were issued. The northwest section was next, with \$125,000, followed by the southwest, with \$400, and the southeast, with \$300. The total expenditure was \$540,679, less than the amount authorized in November.

## To Explain What's Wrong.

Peter W. Collins of Massachusetts is announced to speak on "What's Wrong With the World" Sunday evening at 8 o'clock at the New National Theater, under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus. The lecture is free to the public.

Canada will spend \$75,000 this year for maintenance of experimental farms.

## To Speak Before Missourians.

Representative L. C. Dyer is scheduled to speak at a meeting of the Missouri Society Saturday evening at 8 o'clock at Rauscher's. A musical and literary program also is to be given.

## For the Merest Fraction of the Cost of a New Gown

Bornot famous dry-cleaning will restore your wardrobe to "newness" for the coming season.

When a gown is only partially soiled, or has a ruinous spot upon it, our special process, "Detachment," will clean it perfectly, and your gown will be returned fresh and dainty as when new.

Bornot dyeing is unequalled outside of France, and will completely transform a last season's gown.

Our processes are fully up to the Paris standard and have been perfected by over 50 years of experience.

A. F. Bornot Bro. Co.

French Soothers and Dyers

1429 F Street N.W.

## WAR OFFICIALLY REPORTED.

### BELGIAN STATEMENT.

PARIS, January 5: After a quiet night the artillery battle was resumed with violence in the sectors of Dixmude and Drel Grachten. During the morning, to the north of Steenstraete, there was a fight with grenades, which resulted to our advantage.

### MONTENEGRIN STATEMENT.

PARIS, January 5: The following Montenegrin official statement has been received here: January 2 there was an artillery duel along the north front. On the east front, toward Molkovac, the enemy made brick attacks on our position, lasting throughout the day, but these were repulsed.

Toward Berane the fighting was less violent. In the direction of Dechaul-Plava we have taken the position of Boklevac, from which we drive the enemy, with offered severe losses. On the other front there have been artillery duels.

### TURKISH STATEMENT.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 4, via London, January 5: On the Irak front all attempts by detachments of the enemy near Ailgerli to come to the assistance of the army at Kut-el-Amara failed.

On the Caucasus front there have been intermittent artillery combats.

On the Bardsan front, on the nights of January 2 and 3, one of the enemy's torpedo boats fired several shells in the direction of Ari Burnu, and then withdrew. Near Seddul Bahr our artillery bombarded the enemy's positions at a camp between Seddul Bahr and Tekke Burnu. The same night our positions were bombarded by one of their cruisers, and the next day a submarine torpedoed a British ship.

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